



Ebbw Vale Urban District Council

REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the Year 1958



Ebbw Vale Urban District Council

REPORTS

of the

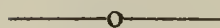
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

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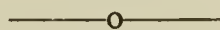
for the Year 1958

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EBBW VALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman - Councillor E. J. Parsons, J.P.
Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. B. Goldsworthy

Members of the Council.

Councillor D. W. H. Bennett	Councillor W. D. R. Herbert
Councillor F. E. Bird	Councillor C. Jenkins
Councillor A. J. Bull	Councillor D. R. Lynch
Councillor B. Caron	Councillor C. W. Norton
Councillor J. Davies	Councillor D. Warren
Councillor R. Davies, B.A.	Councillor G. Watkins
Councillor J. L. Evans	Councillor J. Watkins
Councillor R. Evans	Councillor C. C. Weston
Councillor T. J. Evans	Councillor B. D. P. Williams
Councillor S. Gale	

Clerk of the Council:
H. J. Williams, Esq., Solicitor.

Treasurer and Accountant:
W. Hicks, Esq., F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A. (until 30th Sept., 1958)
B. Bucknall, Esq., F.I.M.T.A., A.C.I.S. (from 1st Oct., 1958)

Engineer and Surveyor:
J. M. Davies, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.I.Mun.E.

Architect:
J. L. Thomas, Esq., L.R.I.B.A., A.R.I.C.S., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Health Committee.
Chairman - Councillor G. Watkins
Vice-Chairman - Councillor D. W. H. Bennett

Medical Officer of Health:
Dr. T. Stephens, M.C., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:
A. Stokes, Esq., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Public Health Inspectors:
J. R. Pulsford, Esq., C.R.S.H. G. Beynon, Esq., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Rodent Inspector:
R. A. Evans, Esq.

Clerical Staff:
T. S. Bowen, Esq. A. E. Foster, Esq.

Ebbw Vale Urban District Council

—O—

Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£472,071
Area of District	...	...	...	...	6,869 acres
Population (estimated) 1958	...	...	...	...	28,320
Population (estimated) 1957	...	...	...	...	28,320
Population (census) 1951	...	...	...	...	29,205
Number of Live births	...	...	...	...	461
Number of still-births	...	...	...	...	17
Birth rate per 1,000 inhabitants	...	...	...	...	16.28
Still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	...	35.56
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	343
Death rate per 1,000 inhabitants	...	...	...	...	12.12
Number of infant deaths (under one year)	...	...	...	...	7
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	15.18
Infectious diseases notified	...	...	...	...	472
Infectious diseases - attack rate per 1,000 inhabitants	...	...	...	...	16.63
Tuberculosis - attack rate per 1,000 inhabitants	...	...	...	...	0.50
Tuberculosis - death rate per 1,000 inhabitants	...	...	...	...	0.14

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the

EBBW VALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1958

To the CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS
of the EBBW VALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year ended 31st March, 1958. It is made in accordance with memorandum of the Ministry of Health.

The area of the Ebbw Vale Urban District is 6,869 acres, with an estimated population of 28,320, which is the population given by the Registrar-General for calculating purposes. A census taken in 1951 showed the population to be 29,205.

The number of births, still-births and deaths allocated to this area are those registered during the year 1958 as adjusted for inward and outward transfers. The returns as submitted by the Registrar-General will be used for calculations, and it should be noted that these figures do not quite correspond with those compiled locally. This is particularly so regarding the registration of births, as records of inward transfers are not included in the local returns.

The Council continues to interest itself practically in the question of sub-standard property. Such buildings - old, lacking in amenities and in a state of disrepair - as Lethbridge Terrace, Newchurch, Gantra, Augusta Street, Hall Street, Queen Street and others, yet remain to be finally dealt with.

The people in the Victoria area are unfortunately situated in that they are exposed unduly to high concentrations of dust and a damp atmosphere. In Garden City, where the houses are of an acceptable standard, the occupants are assailed by fumes and a malodorous atmosphere.

The most recent of the Council's Housing Estates, Garnlydan, is sited on the open, indeed very open, Llangynidr Plateau, adjacent to the Council's reservoirs. It will be appreciated that such proximity must give rise to anxiety and must necessitate extra careful supervision of the Gathering Grounds if avoidable contamination of the water supply and damage to the plant are to be prevented.

This is a mountainous area. It is accepted that, on high ground where rainfall is heavy, concentration of the products of nuclear explosions, such as Str. 90, is also likely to be high. The Government has set up a country-wide monitoring system to measure this fall-out, and the Station nearest to Ebbw Vale is sited at Talgarth. Arrangements, whereby certain human bone is examined for its Strontium content, are also in hand.

Although there is a good deal of uninformed comment from the medical profession, and from the public, since our knowledge of the hazards involved is meagre and incomplete, even amongst the best informed, anxiety is a natural consequence.

During the year careful supervision was continued of milk supplies, ice-cream supplies, meat supplies, and foodstuffs in general.

It is proposed to ask the Mass Radiography Service to undertake a further survey of the population some time in 1959, with a view to uncovering cases of chest disease, such as cancer, tuberculosis, pneumoconiosis, etc.

Speculation arises as to the harmful effect, if any, of the exposure to chest X-rays. Whether certain classes, e.g. pregnant women and young children should be included in such surveys, by reason of their presumed susceptibility, remains to be decided.

Submissive children of intelligent people have been turned into pin-cushions. It gives no pleasure to a sensitive Doctor to be looked upon as a re-incarnated Chinese torturer, therefore, it will be a happy day for both sides when an Agent protecting against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, etc. is evolved.

The comfort, if not the contentment and happiness of old folks will need increasing attention. The young cannot appreciate the fact that old age is the end stage for most of us. The middle-aged do feel the shadow approaching but, distracted by their own affairs, some are prone to look upon the old as a part of the scene with which they have no direct concern. The baby and the 'white-beard' are defenceless, and as much consideration must be given to the latter as to the former.

Accidents in the home, on the road and in the workshop, assume a position of ever increasing importance. The number is frightening, the burden of economic loss is heavy, the despair and unhappiness produced are heart rending; or would be so if it were not that they appear to most of us, fortunately, in the guise of statistics. Care in the home, in the workplace, and on the road, plus a firm application of the Law when occasion so merits it, is the way to reduce the total.

It is disappointing, even discouraging, that the first class amenities provided by the Council in public conveniences should give rise to the destructive, and even obscene, efforts of certain hooligans. Education, at home and in the school, will act as a preventative measure in most cases. Persistent offenders, if caught, should receive, unmitigated by unintelligent sentiment, the fullest punishment which the Law permits.

POPULATION

TABLE 1.

Year	Estimated Mid-year Population		Census		
1954	...	28,570	1921	...	35,383
1955	...	28,420			
1956	...	28,350	1931	...	31,695
1957	...	28,350			
1958	...	28,320	1951	...	29,205

BIRTHS

The total number of births registered locally during 1958 was 440 - 225 males and 215 females; 2 males and 2 females being illegitimate. Of this number, however, 115 children (61 males and 54 females, including 1 illegitimate male) were born to persons not normally resident within the area, thus leaving a total of 325 'local' births - 164 males and 161 females.

The figures returned by the Registrar-General were 239 males and 222 females (5 males and 6 females being illegitimate), thus making a total of 461, 136 more than the local returns. This difference is due primarily to the fact that records of inward transfers are not received by this Department.

In 1958 the general birth rate per 1,000 inhabitants was 16.28; the male birth rate was 8.44 and the female 7.84 per 1,000 inhabitants, whilst in 1957 these rates were 8.22 and 7.79 respectively.

The number of still-births was 17, and the still-birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 35.56. In 1957 this figure was 48.22.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The sampling of maternal blood during pregnancy, with a view to determining the blood group, rhesus factor and infections, should be the invariable practice.

In the following table, the number of births and the birth rate per thousand of the population for each of the past five years are compared with those figures given for the County of Monmouth and England and Wales. The local rates have been adjusted by use of the given comparability factor for the appropriate year.

TABLE 2.

Year	No. of Births Ebbw Vale	Birth Rates per 1,000		
		Ebbw Vale	County of Monmouth	England and Wales
1954	441	16.37	16.26	15.20
1955	400	14.91	15.29	15.00
1956	446	16.67	16.76	15.70
1957	454	16.81	17.07	16.10
1958	461	17.09	17.04	16.40

The table given below shows the total number of 'domiciliary' and 'maternity home' births registered in the district during the five year period 1954—1958.

TABLE 3.

	1958				1957				1956				1955				1954			
	Born at:		Rookery Maternity Home		Born at:		Rookery Maternity Home		Born at:		Rookery Maternity Home		Born at:		Rookery Maternity Home		Born at:		Rookery Maternity Home	
Total births regist'd.	120	320	138	313	151	294	148	270	165	300										
Outward transfers	4	111	6	97	4	97	3	82	4	99										
Local	116	209	132	216	147	197	145	188	161	201										

INFANTILE MORTALITY

TABLE 4.

		1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Number of Deaths (under one year) ...		7	21	19	15	17
Number of Births	... ..	461	454	446	400	441
Number of Still-births	... ..	15.18	46.26	42.60	37.50	38.55
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	... ..	17	23	17	12	12
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	... ..	35.56	48.22	36.72	29.13	26.49

There were 7 deaths among infants under one year old, and the general total from all causes was 343, so 2.04 per cent of the deaths of the population occurred in children under one year of age.

These 7 deaths occurred under the age of one month, and 6 were due to causes operating either before or at birth.

The relationship between maternal viral infection during pregnancy and foetal malformation and/or death is not yet completely known.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1958.

Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year.

TABLE 5.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total under 1 yr	Under 1 day	1 — 7 days	7 — 14 days	14 — 21 days	21 — 28 days	Total under one month	1 — 3 mths.	3 — 6 mths.	6 — 9 mths.	9 — 12 mths.	Total 1 Mth. and over
1. Tuberculosis
2. Syphilitic disease
3. Diphtheria
4. Whooping cough
5. Meningococcal infection
6. Acute poliomyelitis
7. Measles
8. Cancer (malignant disease)
9. Heart disease
10. Influenza
11. Pneumonia (all forms)
12. Bronchitis
13. Other respiratory diseases
14. Congenital malformations	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea
16. Accidents	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
17. Atelectasis	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
18. Prematurity ...	3	...	3	1	1	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
19. Erythroblastosis foetalis or incompatibility of parents' blood group
20. All other causes	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	4	3	7	2	2	2	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...

DEATHS

The returns of deaths as received from the local Registrar showed the total number of deaths, occurring in the Ebbw Vale Urban Area during 1958, to be 298, but of this number 32 were persons normally resident elsewhere - outward transferable deaths - thus the number of residents who died within the area was 226 - 154 males and 112 females. The inward transferable deaths totalled 76 - 42 males and 34 females, thus the total number of deaths from all causes assigned to this area was 342 - 196 males and 146 females. The figures supplied by the Registrar-General were 197 males and 146 females, a total of 343.

The death rate per 1,000 of the population for the year 1958 was 12.12. The male death rate being 6.96 and the female 5.16.

In the following table death rates per thousand of the population for the past five years are compared with those for the County of Monmouth, and England and Wales. The local rates have not been adjusted by use of the comparability factor for the appropriate years.

TABLE 6.

Year	No. of Deaths	Death rate per 1,000		
		Ebbw Vale	County of Monmouth	England and Wales
1954	320	11.20	11.61	11.30
1955	349	12.28	12.40	11.70
1956	340	11.99	11.96	11.70
1957	345	12.17	11.96	11.50
1958	343	12.12	11.73	11.70

CAUSES OF DEATH

IN THE EBBW VALE URBAN DISTRICT, 1958

Returns of the Registrar-General

TABLE 7.

			Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis respiratory	...	3	1	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	3	9
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	5	—	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	7	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	20	11	31
15.	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	2	1	3
16.	Diabetes	...	2	6	8
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	22	18	40
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	40	21	61
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	4	3	7
20.	Other heart disease	...	12	11	23
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	8	10	18
22.	Influenza	...	2	3	5
23.	Pneumonia	...	10	2	12
24.	Bronchitis	...	24	9	33
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	1	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	6	—	6
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	16	31	47
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	2	1	3
34.	All other accidents	...	8	2	10
35.	Suicide	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—	—
			197	146	343

During the year 3 deaths from leukaemia and aleukaemia were registered. In 1957 there were no deaths. The period involved is too short, the number concerned is too small to enable any conclusion to be arrived at regarding the incidence of these diseases.

Speculation exists as to a possible association between leukaemia and radiation. Time will clarify the situation, with the aid of facts drawn from a national survey over a sufficiently long period.

The disease classified as bronchitis needs more research, both as to its true incidence, causative factors, prevention and treatment. Its relation to air pollution by industrial, vehicular and domestic sources is well known. Much remains to be done in practice, as opposed to 'on paper', to reduce or abolish such sources of poisoning of the air.

Accidents exerted a toll of 13 lives. Again, education of the public by all available means, local and national, at home and in the school, is essential to reduce the number.

I would like to see inside every vehicle, in front of the driver's eyes, an authentic picture of a mangled road accident victim. He, or she, drives a machine of murderous potentialities; he or she, when drunk or when elated by speed or governed by discourtesy to others, is a potential assassin. I would like to see all removable distractions to careful driving, such as the hoardings at the dangerous bend of Beaufort bridge, taken away.

As will be noted in Table 7, diseases of the heart and blood vessels were responsible for the largest number of deaths, followed by those due to cancers, and then those due to diseases of the respiratory system.

The years when many deaths, usually from infectious diseases, occurred in young children and infants, appear to have gone, so much so that, like hospital tuberculosic beds, other uses are being found in some hospitals for beds previously occupied by sick children.

CAUSES OF DEATH
IN THE EBBW VALE URBAN DISTRICT, 1958
Local Returns (including Inward Transferable Deaths)

TABLE 8.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	At all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 wks. to 1 year	1 — 5 years	5 — 15 years	15—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	Over 75 years
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	3	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	..
2. Tuberculosis, other forms ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Syphilitic disease ...	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
4. Diphtheria ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Whooping Cough ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Meningococcal infection ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Measles ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	6	3	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	4	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, broncus ...	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	..	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	20	11	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	14	6
15. Leukaemia and aleukaemia ...	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1
16. Diabetes ...	2	6	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	23	18	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	10	9	19
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	40	21	61	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	16	22	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	2
20. Other heart disease ...	12	11	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	8	8
21. Other circulatory disease ...	8	10	18	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	4	11
22. Influenza ...	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1
23. Pneumonia ...	10	3	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	7
24. Bronchitis ...	24	9	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	9	18
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
26. Ulcer of stomach, duodenum ...	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	5	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
31. Congenital malformations ...	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	16	32	48	5	..	..	2	1	1	..	3	6	12	18
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	1	3	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
34. All other accidents ...	8	2	10	1	..	..	..	2	1	2	2	1	1	..
35. Suicide ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	196	146	342	7	..	..	3	4	4	9	32	73	97	113

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1958

Local Returns (including Inward Transferable Deaths)

Ward Distribution.

TABLE 9.

Cause of Death	North Ward	B'minton Ward	N. Cent. Ward	Central Ward	S. Cent. Ward	South Ward	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	1	2	1	...	4
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	3	1	1	1	1	9
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, broncus	1	1	...	1	...	1	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	2	...	1	3	1	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	4	4	9	4	5	31
15. Leukaemia and aleukaemia	2	...	...	1	...	...	3
16. Diabetes	4	...	2	1	...	1	8
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	5	7	6	11	4	41
18. Coronary disease, angina	9	4	11	14	10	13	61
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	1	1	1	2	7
20. Other heart disease	5	3	6	5	1	3	23
21. Other circulatory disease	1	4	3	3	2	5	18
22. Influenza	2	1	...	1	...	...	4
23. Pneumonia	4	2	5	1	1	...	13
24. Bronchitis	7	5	6	2	6	7	33
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach, duodenum	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	...	1	...	2	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Congenital malformations	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	7	14	9	9	3	48
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	1	...	3
34. All other accidents	2	...	1	2	2	3	10
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
36. Homicide and operations of war...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	61	46	63	64	53	54	342

MONTHLY REGISTRATION OF DEATHS, 1958
TABLE 10.

Month	Total Deaths Registered		Outward Transfers		Inward Transfers		Total 'Local' Deaths		Quarterly Totals
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
January	16	11	2	1	5	2	19	12	31
February	26	13	1	1	1	4	26	16	108
March	21	10	2	1	4	3	23	12	35
April	11	11	1	1	5	4	15	14	29
May	6	11	3	—	—	2	3	13	74
June	18	7	3	—	4	3	19	10	29
July	11	7	—	—	2	2	13	9	22
August	9	16	2	3	5	4	12	17	77
September	14	9	—	1	3	1	17	9	26
October	11	7	2	1	3	2	12	8	20
November	12	11	1	1	2	2	13	12	83
December	18	12	2	3	8	5	24	14	38
	173	125	19	13	42	34	196	146	342

The figures for the total 'local' deaths are found by using the formula — 'local' deaths = Total — Outward + Inward Transfers.

CANCER.

During the past five years, 1954 to 1958, the number of deaths and death rates per 1,000 of the population from cancer show as follows :—

Year		No. of deaths	Death rate	% of total deaths
1954	...	49	1.71	15.31
1955	...	71	2.50	20.34
1956	...	49	1.73	14.41
1957	...	40	1.41	11.49
1958	...	54	1.91	15.74

Malignant growths caused the deaths of one person in the 25—35 years age group, and three persons in the 35—45 year group.

CORONARY DISEASE, ANGINA.

The number of deaths, and death rates per 1,000 of the population from coronary diseases during each of the past five years were :—

Year		No. of deaths	Death rate	% of total deaths
1954	...	39	1.36	12.19
1955	...	61	2.15	17.48
1956	...	67	2.36	19.77
1957	...	64	2.26	18.55
1958	...	61	2.15	17.78

It is believed that the incidence of coronary diseases of the heart is increasing. How much of this apparent increase is a real one, and how much is due to fashion in diagnosis, only a post mortem, carried out in every case by a competent pathologist would determine.

The causative factors of coronary disease are unknown, although there is much speculation. Probably over-eating, over-smoking, over-working, indeed over-living, in one way or another will prove to be chiefly concerned.

As has been previously noted, diseases of the heart and blood vessels account for by far the largest number of deaths occurring in the area during 1958.

COUNTY STATISTICS.

The figures given below apply to the County of Monmouth, and, for the purposes of comparison, the local rates are also shown.

		County of Monmouth		Ebbw Vale
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the population	...	17.04	...	16.28
Still-birth rate per 1,000 of the population	...	0.49	...	0.60
Death rate per 1,000 of the population ...	...	11.73	...	12.12
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	25.81	...	15.18
Neo-natal death rate per 1,000 live births	...	17.39	...	15.18
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	... ... ... ...	0.35	...	0.00

COMPARABILITY FACTORS — EBBW VALE

Births

1.05

Deaths

1.23

Live Births

				M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	239	222
Legitimate	...	...	...	234	216
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	6

Still-births

				M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	12	5
Legitimate	...	...	...	12	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age

				M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	4	3
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

				M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	4	3
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 471 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, giving an attack rate per thousand of the population of 16.63.

TABLE 11.

Year	No. of Cases Notified	Attack rate per 1,000
1954	200	7.00
1955	948	33.36
1956	271	9.59
1957	530	18.69
1958	471	16.63

It will be seen that the highest attack rate during the past five years was in 1955. This was chiefly due to the number of measles and whooping cough cases notified — 744 and 80 respectively.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—MORTALITY.

During the year there was no death, tuberculosis excepted, from an infectious disease. Last year there was one death only.

In the tabular statement over, Table 12, are shown the cases notified, and the case rate per 1,000 of the population for each of notifiable diseases.

TABLE 12.

Disease	Cases Notified	Attack rate per 1,000
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	15	0.50
Tuberculosis, other ...	0	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	71	2.57
Pneumonia ...	44	1.55
Smallpox ...	0	0.00
Erysipelas ...	4	0.14
Measles ...	283	9.99
Whooping Cough ...	44	1.55
Enteric (Typhoid or para typhoid) fever ...	1	0.03
Dysentery ...	6	0.21
Acute poliomyelitis ...	1	0.03
Meningococcal infection ...	2	0.71
Puerperal pyrexia ...	0	0.00
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	0	0.00
Food poisoning ...	1	0.03

The incidence of whooping cough, a most distressing complaint, fluctuates from year to year. It causes more damage to the respiratory system than is perhaps appreciated by most. Whooping cough can, however, be ameliorated or prevented by immunisation with appropriate vaccine, which is now offered at infant welfare clinics, and by general practitioners.

All the cases of scarlet fever notified were mild in nature, and were all nursed at home with apparently good results. There have been no deaths from this disease for the past five years.

There was one case of typhoid fever and one severe case of chicken pox. The effect upon two major events in the Town's programme could have been disastrous.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No cases of diphtheria were notified in this area during the year.

The number of children immunised against diphtheria during the year was 146, of which number 138 were under five years of age. This protection may be obtained free of cost at Infant Welfare Centres, Schools, Surgeries of the Medical Practitioners, and at this Office.

As with smallpox vaccination, so with diphtheria immunisation, it is becoming increasingly difficult to persuade the public of the value and continuing necessity of these procedures. A few deaths from diphtheria still occur throughout the country, as will be seen in Table 15, so it is continually emphasised to parents that the remarkable decline in the incidence and mortality of the disease can only be maintained if their children are given the protection of immunisation.

TABLE 13.

Immunisations carried out during the past five years :—

YEAR	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Children under 5 years ...	138	242	266	157	201
5—14 years	6	6	2	2	438
Boosters	2	2	3	3	980

**Total number of Children who had completed a Full Course of Immunisation at any time up to
31st December, 1958, i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1944.**

TABLE 14.

Age at 31.12.58 i.e. Born in year :	Under 1 1958	1 1957	2 1956	3 1955	4 1954	5 1953	6 1952	7 1951	8 1950	9 1949	10 1948	11 1947	12 1946	13 1945	14 1944	Total under 15 yrs.
Last complete course of injections (whether pri- mary or booster																
A. 1954—1958	12	141	216	205	204	187	64	16	23	52	307	322	316	275	135	2,475
B. 1953 or earlier	—	—	—	—	—	13	153	174	177	211	114	155	143	169	316	1,625
	12	141	216	205	204	200	217	190	200	263	421	477	459	444	451	4,100
TOTALS			778				1,070						2,252			
		0 — 4 yrs.					5 — 9 yrs.						10 — 14 yrs.			

The following table is shown to illustrate more completely the downward trend of cases notified, and deaths from diphtheria throughout England and Wales. The figures given are for deaths and notifications (corrected) since 1946; those shown in parenthesis are for Wales alone.

TABLE 15.

ENGLAND AND WALES 1946 - 1957				
YEAR	DEATHS		CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS	
1946	472	(41)	11,986	(1,028)
1947	244	(19)	5,609	(441)
1948	156	(7)	3,575	(190)
1949	84	(1)	1,890	(102)
1950	49	(Nil)	962	(62)
1951	33	(1)	664	(53)
1952	32	(3)	376	(39)
1953	23	(Nil)	266	(17)
1954	9	(Nil)	173	(7)
1955	3	(Nil)	155	(1)
1956	8	(Nil)	51	(2)
1957	6	(Nil)	37	(1)

WHOOPING COUGH.

During the year 44 cases of whooping cough were notified and all but one were under ten years of age. The table below shows the number of children, in various age groups, who were immunised against whooping cough.

TABLE 16.

	AGE at date of final injection		
	0—4 yrs.	5—14 yrs.	Total
Number of children who completed a primary course of immunisation against Whooping cough :—			
(a) Whooping cough only ...	165	—	165
(b) Combined vaccine ...	74	3	77
	239	3	242

SMALLPOX

No cases notified during the year.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Vaccination against smallpox is not compulsory, but this treatment is given free of cost at infant welfare centres, surgeries of the medical practitioners, and at this office.

Whilst considering the question of vaccinating children under 2 years of age, it must be remembered (i) that some countries require vaccination of immigrants before admission, and (ii) that members of H.M. Forces are liable to be posted to areas where smallpox is endemic. In this connection it is known that the rare complications of vaccination, e.g. post-vaccinal encephalomyelitis, are much more likely to occur in those persons vaccinated for the first time after the age of two years.

I give below, in specified age groups, the number of persons primarily vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the past twelve months. No cases of generalised vaccinia or post-vaccinal encephalomyelitis occurred during the year, and there were no deaths from other complications of vaccination.

TABLE 17.

Smallpox Vaccinations carried out over the past five years.

YEAR	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Under 1 year	106	113	114	57	55
1—4 years	7	14	4	6	7
5—14 years	6	2	3	1	2
15 years and over	26	12	18	7	9
Re-vaccinations	36	16	18	19	16
	181	157	157	90	89

POLIOMYELITIS.

One case of poliomyelitis, which recovered, was notified during the year.

The supply of vaccine increased during the year. In my opinion further time must elapse before the effect of vaccination upon the incidence of poliomyelitis can finally be determined. Since, however, there is no specific drug or preparation to deal with the established disease any harmless preventative method must be adopted.

Notification of Poliomyelitis during the past five years.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Notifications received ...	1	4	0	5	1

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations, 1958.

The number of injections given during the period January to December, 1958

Adults ...	...	...	130
Children ...	...	...	7,212
			<hr/>
			7,342
			<hr/>

DYSENTERY.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Cases notified ...	6	3	1	13	1

In these days of mass production, much manipulation, the long distances involved in the transport of foodstuffs, and the often poor hygienic standards of shop distributors and home consumers, the dysenteries present another ever present threat to the public health. With food poisoning and poliomyelitis they are among the most prominent, if not the most prevalent, diseases confronting the public health service today.

TYPHOID FEVER.

During the year one case of typhoid fever was notified. Lines of enquiry were pursued as far as Swansea, but the source of infection was not ascertained.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955. s.25.

Food Poisoning.

Only one case of food poisoning was notified during 1958. The agent was found to be *Salmonella typhimurium*, 'phage type 2, but the source of the infection was not discovered.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Cases notified	1	25	0	6	2

A reduction in the incidence of the dysenteries, food poisoning, poliomyelitis, infective hepatitis, etc., can only be attained by the co-operation of everyone, based upon education in matters of personal hygiene, and education which should begin in the home and in school, places where facilities such as baths, hot water, towelling, etc., should be present.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year fourteen cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified. Notifications in respect of two inward transfers were also received. There were four deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during the year. It is interesting to note that the number of cases notified is the lowest on record insofar as this District is concerned. The attendance of persons at the local Chest Clinic remains high.

Each case notified is visited by the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor, and when disinfection is required, by the Public Health Inspector. A report upon environmental conditions is sent to the Area Chest Physician and the County Medical Officer. The welfare facilities, e.g. occupational therapy provided by the Local Health Authority, and the financial assistance, etc. which may be provided by the National Assistance Board, are brought to the attention of the patients. This Authority, in addition, offers rehousing where necessary.

Arrangements are made for all contacts to be seen at the Chest Clinic for skin tests, X-rays, and possibly B.C.G. vaccination.

Skin testing for tuberculosis was carried out in the 'under fives' at the Child Welfare Centres and at this Office. Children of school age were offered the same facility, and all skin test positives were X-rayed and passed into the care of the Chest Physician.

TABLE 18.

			1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
No. of cases notified	...	...	14	16	28	40	27
Attack rate per 1,000, Ebbw Vale	...		0.50	0.56	0.99	1.41	0.95
Number of deaths	...	...	4	2	2	6	4
Death rate per 1,000, Ebbw Vale	...		0.14	0.07	0.07	0.21	0.14

TUBERCULOSIS

1. Summary of notifications received during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1958.

TABLE 19.

FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS												
Primary notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis												
Age periods :		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	Total
Resp.	Males :	...	...	1	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	8
	Females :	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	6
Non-resp.	Males :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Females :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

2. New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by Formal notification.												
Source of information		Number of cases - age groups										
		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	Total
Death returns from local Registrar	Resp.	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Non-resp.	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Death returns from Registrar - General (Transfer'le deaths)	Resp.	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Non-resp.	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Posthumous notifications	Resp.	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Non-resp.	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

3. Deaths from Tuberculosis - Age Groups.												
Age groups :		0-	1-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	Total
Resp.	Males :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
	Females :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Non-resp.	Males :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Females :	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

It is seen that 2 of the 14 cases notified occurred in the 55 plus age group, as did 3 of the 4 deaths.

Patients from this area attend the Chest Clinics at Pentwyn House, Ebbw Vale Hospital, and at Llanarth Road, Pontllanfraith. The figures shown in the tables given below relate only to those patients seen at the Ebbw Vale Clinic.

I should like to emphasise that the number of non-tuberculous chest cases attending the Clinic, and being treated either at home or in hospital, is increasing steadily. In fact, the Clinic is becoming more of a Chest Clinic than a Tuberculosis Dispensary, and is dealing more and more with cases of bronchitis and asthma. This is stated by the Chest Physician.

TABLE 20.

Number of chest cases examined (including Home visits), i.e. new cases during the year ended 31st December, 1958	...	...	...	248
Number of attendances at the Clinic (including Homevisits), i.e. new and old cases seen during the year ended 31st December, 1958	...	...	...	1,122

TABLE 21.

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Number of persons examined for the first time at the Ebbw Vale Clinic (including Home visits)	248	222	401	372	353
Total number of attendances at the Ebbw Vale Clinic (including Home visits)	1,122	1,256	1,312	973	893

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. s.172.

This Section deals with the removal to hospital, by means of application to a court of summary jurisdiction by the Local Authority, of infectious persons suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract.

No such action was taken during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS.

Action taken under these Regulations relating to tuberculosic employees in the milk trade — Nil.

ADMISSIONS TO SANATORIA, 1958.

TABLE 22.

SANATORIUM		Cases Admitted	Transfers from other Sanatoria	Cases Discharged
Cefn Mably ...	...	1	—	2
Chepstow ...	...	3	—	3
Gelligaer ...	...	2	—	1
Glan Ely ...	...	6	—	4
Sully ...	...	—	—	3
Talgarth ...	...	4	2	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals.

Of the total number (471) of infectious diseases notified during the year - tuberculosis cases excepted) - only six were admitted to isolation hospitals. They were: typhoid fever—1; meningococcal meningitis—1; food poisoning—1; dysentery—2; acute poliomyelitis—1.

The hospital to which the patients were admitted was Allt-yr-yn Isolation Hospital, Newport.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Analysis of Total Cases Notified

TABLE 23.

DISEASE	Males	Females	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 — 2 years	2 — 3 years	3 — 4 years	4 — 5 years	5 — 10 years	10 — 15 years	15 — 20 years	20 — 25 years	25 — 35 years	35 — 45 years	45 — 65 years	Over 65 years	Cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet fever	30	41	71	...	3	1	5	6	37	14	4	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	29	15	44	2	1	1	2	3	2	...	1	...	3	1	12	16	...
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	3	...	1	2	...	10
Measles	145	138	283	5	31	36	40	26	126	13	5	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	24	20	44	4	8	8	5	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas	3	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...
Acute poliomyelitis	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal infection	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Typhoid fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	4	2	6	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	2
Food poisoning	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	246	225	471	13	43	47	54	44	177	27	17	3	7	2	19	19	16

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - WARD DISTRIBUTION

TABLE 24.

Disease			North Ward	B'minton Ward	N. Cent. Ward	Central Ward	S. Cent. Ward	South Ward	TOTAL
Scarlet fever	...	...	11	4	26	11	6	13	71
Pneumonia	...	...	3	9	11	5	4	12	44
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	3	1	2	3	2	14
Measles	...	...	43	30	24	34	70	82	283
Whooping Cough	...	...	2	21	5	3	4	9	44
Erysipelas	...	...	—	2	1	1	—	—	4
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Meningococcal infection	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Typhoid fever	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	1	5	—	6
Food poisoning	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
			62	70	70	58	92	119	471

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

(County Council Service)

There are three weekly child welfare clinics in the district, one at Cwm, one at Ebbw Vale, and one at Beaufort. The ante-natal clinics, where routine blood grouping and Rhesus factor tests are carried out, are held weekly at Ebbw Vale and fortnightly at Cwm.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

(County Council Service)

Five midwives, in the employ of the Monmouthshire County Council, practice in the district. Home nursing facilities are available to all necessitous cases, and employed in this respect are six whole-time district nurses, as are home-helpers.

HOSPITALS

(Regional Hospital Board Service)

There are two hospitals in the district - the Ebbw Vale Hospital, where both medical and surgical cases are treated, and the Rookery Mternity Hospital. All cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment have to be sent to isolation hospitals outside the area, there being no local facilities. When difficulties are experienced in obtaining a bed for a patient, application is made through the Bed Bureau at Panteg. Medical cases are also admitted to the Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

(County Council Service)

The ambulance services are controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council with the control centre at Caerleon. The local depot is situated at Tredegar.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

(County Council Service)

The establishment of the Home Help Service as at 31st December, 1958, was 1 full-time and 47 part-time home-helps. During the year 228 cases received assistance - maternity cases 3, chronic sick 162, tuberculosis 3, miscellaneous 60. During 1957 the number of cases assisted was 203.

Increasing use is being made of this Service, the growth of which is nationwide, and since there will be more and more old people needing help, the need for this Service is likely to expand.

MEDICAL APPLIANCES SCHEME

(County Council Service)

The Monmouthshire County Council are responsible for the provision of appliances, e.g. air beds, air rings, etc., issued under this Scheme, but the Depots are staffed on a voluntary basis by members of the British Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

Specimens including milk, water and ice-cream samples, are sent for bacteriological and pathological examinations to the Public Health Laboratory at Clytha Square, Newport. The chemical examination of drinking water, and the estimation of atmospheric dust fall-out, as collected by the deposit gauges, are made by the Public Analyst in his private capacity.

The services of the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff are also available, from whence smallpox vaccine is obtained.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, s.47

No action was taken by the Council under s.47 of the Act, which provides for the removal to suitable premises of persons who —

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic diseases, or, being aged, infirm, or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public cleansing during the year was maintained at its usual standard. In some areas collection was daily, in others three times weekly. Equipment in use being 1 moving floor Karrier, 5 Bantam side-load Karriers, 1 Karrier, dual tip lorry, and 1 mechanical Gully Cleanser.

During the year sites suitable for refuse disposal were ear-marked for future use.

INDUSTRIES

Particulars of the basic industries of the district.

				Persons employed
Steam coal collieries	...	...	...	1,834
Coke, coal and bye-products		...	...	366
Steel and tinplate works	...	...	...	9,420
Brick making	...	...	...	107
Quarries	...	...	...	105
Total number of persons employed in the district	...			15,803

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR 1958.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1958.

Estimated population	...	...	...	28,320
Cases of infectious diseases notified	...	...	...	471
New cases of tuberculosis	...	...	...	14
Number of new houses erected during the year :—				
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	135
(ii) By other persons or bodies	...	...	...	10

HOUSING.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS.

The number of families on the housing list at the end of 1958 was 816, but of this number, 125 were applications made by tenants of houses and 91 were from applicants living in sub-standard houses which are included in the immediate slum clearance programme. There remained, therefore, 600 applications for rehousing under general needs, and of these, 54 were applicants for one-bedroom accommodation.

During the year 220 new applications were received, but despite this the housing list was reduced by a total of 79 applicants.

The policy of the Local Authority to encourage the purchase of houses through the Local Authority loans has, therefore, greatly assisted in reducing the number of families on the housing list. The majority of those removed from the list had purchased houses in this manner.

NEW HOUSES.

During the year 135 houses were completed by the Local Authority, and at the end of the year the following sites were being developed.

Site	No. of houses		Completed		Remaining	
Garnlydan, Part I	...	200	...	44	...	156
Garnlydan, Part II	...	194	...	25	...	169
Glyncoed	...	18	...	—	...	18
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		412		69		343
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

HOUSING, 1958.

		Type of House				Number
1. Number of separate dwellings owned by Local Authority on 31st Dec., 1958		Traditional	...	...	...	1,122
		Cornish Unit	...	...	...	194
		Gregory Flats	...	...	...	68
		Unity	...	...	...	30
		Flats	...	...	...	18
		B.I.S.F.	...	...	...	154
		No Fines	...	...	...	429
						<u>2,015</u>
2. Total number of new separate dwellings completed during the year						
	...	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
(i) By the Local Authority	...	135	79	219	174	47
(ii) By others persons or bodies	...	10	20	20	12	7
		<u>145</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>54</u>
3. Number of Local Authority dwellings in course of erection 31st Dec., 1958						
...	...	Type of House				Number
...	...	No Fines	...	...	...	156
...	...	Traditional	...	...	...	187
						<u>343</u>

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

A. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	359
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	463
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included in sub head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	46
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	102
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...		154
4.		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	89

B. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in respect of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	51
---	-----	-----	----

2.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	...	...	...	Nil
	(i) By the owners	...	...	...	Nil
	(ii) By the Local Authority in default	...	...	...	Nil

B. Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	32
2. Number of Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	32

C. Proceedings under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of Clearance Orders confirmed during 1958	Nil
2. Number of houses included in Clearance Orders	Nil
3. Number of Compulsory Purchase Orders confirmed, 1958 ...	Nil
4. Number of houses included in Compulsory Purchase Orders ...	Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 10 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1953 or under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of Closing Orders made in respect of separate tenements or underground rooms	1
2. Number of premises closed under the Local Government Miscellan- eous Provisions Act	3
3. Number of Closing Orders determined where premises have been made fit	Nil

E. Proceedings under Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	25
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(i) By owners	
(a) Before legal proceedings	12
(b) After legal proceedings	Nil
(ii) By the Local Authority in default	13

F. Proceedings under Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served ...	Nil
---	-----

G. Proceedings under s.93 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	89
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—				
(i) By owners				
(a) before legal proceedings	...	...	...	38
(b) after legal proceedings	...	...	...	—
(ii) By the Local Authority in default	...	...	...	—

H. Proceedings under s.24 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of Notices served	Nil
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

I. Proceedings under s.268 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Number of Notices served in respect of moveable dwellings	3
---	-----	-----	-----	---

J. Proceedings under the Rent Act, 1957.

1. Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	35
2. Number of Undertakings received	...	...	...	6
3. Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	...	29

3.—HOUSING ACT, 1957. Part IV. OVERCROWDING.

1.	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	52
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	108
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	432
2.		Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	18
3.	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	93
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	372
4.		Particulars of cases in which dwelling houses have again become over- crowded after the Local Authority have taken steps to abate overcrowding	...	...	...	Nil

Summary of Inspections carried out during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Sanitary accommodation, cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	38
Drainage works	...	...	...	127
Public conveniences	...	...	...	132
Piggeries, etc.	...	...	...	21
Waterworks	...	...	...	12
Nuisances	...	...	...	428
Refuse disposal	...	...	...	34
Vermin	...	...	...	14
Offensive trades	...	...	...	12
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	63
Rats and mice infestation	...	...	...	1,082
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	287

HOUSING ACT, 1949.

The Local Authority has taken full advantage of the provisions for grants and loans under the above-mentioned Act, for the improvement and repair of houses in the area.

Number of applications approved for grants for the improve- ment of houses	76
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of applications approved for loans for the repair and improvement of houses	26
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

Only seven properties had to be treated during the year. Methods employed in carrying out this work entail the use of D.D.T. smoke. Satisfactory results were obtained in each instance.

Dwelling houses treated :—

Council houses	...	...	...	4
Private houses	...	...	...	3

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The treatment of the sewers, and of surface infestations, to control rats and mice was continued during the year. The sewer system was successfully treated twice during the year, and a total of 815 manholes were baited, using zinc phosphide and sausage rusk on the first occasion, and arsenic and bread mash for the second treatment.

Surface infestations were treated with Warfarin and in every case the results were satisfactory. The total properties surveyed and treated may be seen in the following table. It is pointed out that the figures shown therein relate to the twelve months ending 31st March, 1959.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(i) Local Authority	(ii) Dwelling houses(inc. Council Houses)	(iii) All other (including Business premises)	(iv) Total of cols.(i) (ii) and (iii)	(v) Agriculture
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's dist.	8	7897	336	8205	5
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ...	—	368	13	381	—
(b) Survey under the Act ...	8	501	56	565	—
(c) Otherwise ...	—	124	12	136	—
3. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major ...	—	21	5	26	—
Minor ...	5	270	8	283	—
(b) Mice Major ...	—	55	—	55	—
Minor ...	—	22	—	22	—
4. Number of infested properties (Sect. 4) treated by the L.A. ...	5	368	13	386	—
5. Number of notices served under s.4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e. proofing) ...	—	—	—	—	—
6. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under s.4 of the Act. ...	—	—	—	—	—
7. Legal proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ...	—	4	—	4	—

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1954

and

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

One slaughterhouse is registered under the above Act, and details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the area are as follows :

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	43	11	12	328	67	—
Number inspected ...	43	11	12	328	67	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	6	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	32.6 %	54.5 %	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	1	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.09 %	9.1 %	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

The bulk of the meat consumed in this area is killed in an adjoining area and the Local Authority contributes a proportion of the salary of the full-time meat inspector appointed in that area.

This ensures that all meat consumed in the area is inspected at the time of slaughter by a qualified inspector.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

and

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

The food premises in the area were visited regularly, as also were all canteens supplying cooked meals to workmen.

A high standard of cleanliness was maintained in the canteens and improvements were carried out where necessary in food shops in order to comply with the above regulations.

Sampling under this Act is carried out by the Officers of the County Council, who, during 1958, took the following samples :—

Milk—53; Other foodstuffs—38; Ice-cream—4; Beer—4; Total number of samples taken - 99.

Details of inspections carried out are given below.

Premises			Number		No. of Visits
Greengrocers	...	...	18	...	72
Butchers	...	...	32	...	128
Restaurants, cafes	...	...	10	...	120
Grocers	...	...	68	...	288
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	12	...	125
Bakehouses	...	...	1	...	6
Fresh Fish Shops	...	...	1	...	12
Canteens	...	...	7	...	28

The number of premises registered under S.16 (1b) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 are shown below.

No. of Premises	Inspections
48	402

Premises registered under S.16 (a) are shown under the Ice Cream (Heat-Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Below is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned during the year.

Food Condemned					Amount
Meat	...	...	...	...	652 lbs.
Meat, tins	...	...	...	...	333
Jam, jars	...	...	...	...	22
Ham, cooked	...	...	...	...	107 lbs.
Fish, tins	...	...	...	...	51
Sausages	...	...	...	...	120 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	19 lbs.
Vegetables, tins	...	...	...	...	71
Vegetables, lbs.	...	...	...	...	1512
Soup, tins	...	...	...	...	22
Tomatoes, tins	...	...	...	...	176
Fruit, tins	...	...	...	...	442
Milk, tins	...	...	...	...	87
Cheese	...	...	...	...	90 lbs.
Cream, tins	...	...	...	...	18
Butter	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Confectionery, pkts.	...	...	...	...	36
Coffee, tins	...	...	...	...	9
Rice, tins	...	...	...	...	3
Lard	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Pies	...	...	...	...	24

All condemned foods not returned through the wholesalers for salvage, are disposed of at the Local Authority's refuse tip.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Regular inspections of all licensed premises in the area were carried out during the year and the standard of cleanliness was very good.

Notices, requiring certain defects to be remedied, were served in 9 cases only, and in each case the work required was carried out to our satisfaction.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955. ICE-CREAM HEAT-TREATMENT &c.) REGULATIONS, 1947.

A total of 259 visits were paid to premises involved in the manufacture, storage, and sale of ice-cream. A high standard of cleanliness was maintained throughout the year in each of the premises visited.

The following table shows the premises registered, the number of visits made, and the results of samples taken for bacteriological examination.

Premises registered for :—				No of vists	
Sale, manufacture and storage	...	9	...	96	
Sale only	...	...	...	87	163

Samples :—

Grade 1	...	...	39
Grade 2	...	...	1
Grade 3	...	...	8
Grade 4	...	...	2
			50

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949-1954

MILK (Special Designation) REGULATIONS, 1949-1954

MILK (Special Designation) SPECIFIED AREA ORDER, 1954

As this Area is a designated area under the Milk (Special Designation) Specified Area Order, 1954, only bottled, pasteurised or heat treated milk is sold in the area.

Sixty-five samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Laboratory at Newport for bacteriological examination. Two of the samples were found to be unsatisfactory.

No of dairies registered ... 24. Inspections made ... 87.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

All factories in the area were regularly inspected, and in most cases conditions were found to be satisfactory.

Details of the work carried out are shown in the following tables.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on register (a)	Inspections (b)	No. of Written Notices (c)	Occupiers Prosecuted (d)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 are enforced by Local Authorities ...	4	27	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which s.7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	42	91	1	—
(iii) Other premises in which s.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	46	118	1	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred :		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—	—

PART VIII of the ACT — OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nil

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The main causes of atmospheric pollution in this district can be attributed to :—

- (i) The steel and tinplate works, and the associated processes such as coke ovens and bye-products plant, and
- (ii) Domestic smoke.

To accurately measure the extent of pollution five deposit gauges, and a lead peroxide apparatus for determining the amount of sulphur dioxide, have been installed at various sites throughout the district. Messrs Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd. have set up three such gauges within the works boundaries.

A summary of the results obtained on examination of the matter collected in the deposit gauges is given in the following table. It will be noted that the figures relate to the total monthly deposits in tons per sq. mile.

Gauge No. ...			Monthly Deposit — tons per sq. mile				
			D.2449	D.2450	D.2451	D.2452	D.2453
Sited at ...			Upper Carno Reservoir	Co-op. Stores Bethcar St. Ebbw Vale	Apprentices School Victoria	Pit-head Baths Waunlwyd	Co-op. Stores Canning St. Cwm
JANUARY	...	...	8.34	32.24	58.93	55.02	39.15
FEBRUARY	...	...	17.41	39.55	90.78	89.45	31.38
MARCH	...	...	9.07	16.88	43.69	30.68	15.51
APRIL	...	...	11.26	10.45	36.68	27.33	22.91
MAY	...	...	18.85	26.58	36.58	40.72	24.11
JUNE	...	...	11.17	21.51	50.59	27.25	16.85
JULY	...	...	12.80	21.81	56.76	28.12	17.87
AUGUST	...	...	14.21	26.35	54.72	36.72	21.55
SEPTEMBER	...	...	8.73	52.03	134.20	74.03	53.56
OCTOBER	...	...	33.29	46.76	103.41	61.09	38.02
NOVEMBER	...	...	3.36	17.67	70.03	65.54	22.85
DECEMBER	...	...	13.21	45.12	75.77	43.62	32.78

Estimation of Sulphur by the Lead Peroxide Method **Summary of results, 1958.**

Amount collected by 100 sq.cms. of Lead Peroxide (m.gms.)						
Site of Apparatus :	January	February	March	April	May	June
PARK ROAD	1.38	1.67	3.87	1.62	1.64	1.31
GARDEN CITY	July	August	September	October	November	December
EBBW VALE	0.82	0.64	1.02	0.95	1.81	2.07

RAINFALL

Month	Inches	No. of Days
January	6.10	21
February	8.58	20
March	1.73	11
April	1.84	12
May	5.67	24
June	4.07	19
July	5.07	19
August	5.05	21
September	10.15	18
October	6.89	18
November	2.84	14
December	5.41	19
	<u>63.40</u>	<u>216</u>

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply for the area is derived from two reservoirs, Upper and Lower Carno, on the Llangynidr Moors, and these are supplemented by two electrical pumping stations on the Claisfer Stream in an adjoining valley.

Both reservoirs are equipped with a set of roughing filters together with a number of open filter beds, and after passing through these the water is chlorinated.

The use of lead piping on supplies for human consumption is now forbidden, so the risk of contamination by lead is reduced to a minimum. The water is conveyed to the town by means of cast iron gravitated mains. The supply is on the whole, adequate and satisfactory, but shortages do occur during periods of prolonged drought. To prevent any shortage, and to cope with rising consumption, an additional source is being sought.

There are still 14 properties in the district not connected to the main water supply, but every effort is being made to effect connection where possible.

Routine tests of the water is carried out by the Waterworks personnel, and Staff of the Surveyor's Department. These tests include daily chlorine tests, and monthly pH and silica tests.

Details of all samples taken - from reservoirs, and springs, etc. - for bacteriological examination are given on the following page. The results of samples taken for chemical examination are also shown. In all a total of 77 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological analysis, and 4 for chemical.

WATER SAMPLES

	RESERVOIRS		SPRINGS, &c.		SWIMMING BATHS		TOTAL
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
Bacteriological examination of :							
(i) Raw water	8	19	2	2	—	2	33
(ii) Treated water	36	3	—	—	4	1	44
	44	22	2	2	4	3	77
Chemical examination of :							
(i) Raw water	2	—	—	—	1	—	3
(ii) Treated water	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	3	—	—	—	—	—	4

Reservoirs—Capacity

		Upper Carno	Lower Carno
Maximum capacity, gallons	...	68,000,000	176,000,000
Average storage capacity held	...	59,000,000	160,000,000
Claisfer - Maximum output of pumping station :- 1,500,000 galls. per day			

WATER CONSUMPTION

1st April to 31st March — 1954 to 1959

Year	1954/1955	1955/1956	1956/1957	1957/1958	1958/1959
1. Domestic Supply	402,056,000	409,966,000	426,709,577	484,463,263	424,348,750
2. Blaina U.D.C.	179,474,000	174,016,000	180,300,000	174,440,000	169,914,000
3. Trade (Ebbw V.)	54,591,000	56,510,000	70,636,423	71,504,737	74,097,250
TOTALS	636,121,000	640,492,000	677,646,000	730,408,000	668,360,000

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The very few properties remaining not connected to the sewer system are so far from the system as to make conversion quite impracticable.

The area is served by the Western Valley trunk sewer with a main sea outfall at Newport, whilst surface water is collected in a separate sewer system draining to the River Ebbw. The drainage system is, therefore, mainly satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	Cases Notified	Number of disinfections carried out
Scarlet fever	71	6
Tuberculosis	14	28
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1
Meningococcal infection	2	2
Typhoid fever	1	1

With regard to the tuberculosis cases shown above, disinfections were carried out after death, or after admission of patients to sanatoria. The premises vacated by families rehoused by the Local Authority because of tuberculosis, were also disinfected.

A. STOKES,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

CONCLUSION.

Close, and I believe, amiable liaison continued with the Members and Staffs of the Local Health Authority, Regional Hospital Management Committees, Local Education Department, and the local representatives of the National Coal Board and Messrs Richard Thomas & Baldwins Ltd.

I wish to express my complete satisfaction with the manner in which the Staff of the Public Health Department have carried out their work, work which has increased as a result of recent legislation; the keen interest displayed by Members, and the growing awareness of the General Public that a Health Department exists.

I would like to thank Members of the Council, fellow Officers, and members of the Health Department Staff for their generous co-operation.

THOMAS STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

